

DETAILED ACTION

Claim 1-10 remain pending. Applicant amended claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10.

The claim objection cited in the previous office action has been withdrawn in light of the amendments.

The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. section 112 cited in the previous Office action have been withdrawn in light of the amendments.

The amended drawing sheet filed by Applicant to correct a mislabeled drawing has been acknowledged.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Porter et al. (US 5,709,838) disclose a kit for analyzing an unknown sample. The kit comprises a flexible tube, a reagent-filled ampoule disposed inside the tube, a test strip for introducing a sample into the tube, and a clamp for sealing the tube. The test strip comprises a generally rectangular base layer, an adhesive layer overlying the base layer, and a peel-able layer overlying the adhesive layer. In use, the peel-able layer is removed from the test strip to expose the adhesive layer, a sample is picked up using the adhesive layer, the test strip is introduced into the flexible tube, the flexible tube is sealed using the clamp, and the ampoule is crushed to enable the sample and the reagent to react. However, the kit disclosed by Porter et al. is not capable of being folded. Moreover, Porter et al. do not disclose a U-shaped clip having spaced resilient legs or an opaque surface for enhancing the visual detection of the reaction of interest.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL S. HYUN whose telephone number is (571)272-8559. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Paul S Hyun/
Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797